

AMENDMENT

Entry of the following amendment is respectfully requested. No new matter is added.

Amendment to the Specification

Kindly amend paragraph [0022] with the following amended paragraph:

[0022] Referring to FIG. 1, a table saw 100, including an optical alignment system 102 of the present invention is described. The table saw 100 includes a rotating cutting blade 104 extending through an aperture included in the saw's support surface 106 such as through a throat plate 108. A back splitter 120 may be included for entering the kerf formed in a workpiece. The support surface 106 may include a recessed channel or trough for accepting a corresponding protrusion included on an accessory for directing a workpiece to be cut. For instance, a dovetailed slot 110 may be included in the support surface for accepting a corresponding slide on a sliding miter gauge 112. The table saw may include a dovetailed slot on either side of the blade to allow the workpiece to be positioned on either side to achieve a proper miter cut, accommodate user preference, minimize chipping, and the like. For instance, a single bevel table saw (such as a saw which only has the capability to bevel to the right or left) may require the user to position the workpiece 114 on a specific side of the blade 104 to achieve the proper bevel cut. An optical alignment system 102 of the present invention may be utilized to indicate the position of the sides of a resultant kerf for the saw blade being utilized.

Kindly amend paragraph [0025] with the following amended paragraph:

[0025] With reference to FIG. 2, an optical alignment system 202 includes a support device. In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the support device is a splitter 220 included on the table saw 200. In further embodiments, the support device may be a riving knife, a mounting for attachment to a ceiling (over the saw), an over arm guard (i.e., one mounted remotely from the work area extending to cover the saw blade, such as

a generally U-shaped arm and plastic guard assembly) or the like for positioning the system with respect to the kerf of the blade. Referring generally to FIGS. 3 and FIG. 3 and specifically to FIG. 4, utilization of a riving knife or splitter (i.e. a back splitter) may be preferable inasmuch as these support devices may be coupled with the beveling mechanism of the saw. For instance, a splitter 410 (including associated linkages 430, 432) is fixedly connected to the saw's arbor mounting 434 so that the optical alignment system bevels with the saw blade 304 404. Referring to FIG. 2, thus, the optical alignment system may bevel with the saw blade 204 to ensure proper visual indication when a bevel cut is desired. Referring to FIG. 5, an optical alignment system mounted to a splitter may be disposed to project the first and second optical indicators 222 522 and 224 524 through a clear plastic guard. (Which may be additionally observed in FIG. 2 as references 222 and 224.) Alternatively, the optical indicators may be projected through an opening on the front of the guard 536 included on the splitter 520.

Kindly amend paragraph [0026] with the following amended paragraph:

[0026] Referring now to FIG. 6, an optical alignment system 602 of the current invention is disclosed. Preferably, the optical alignment system 602 includes a first optical emitting device 638 and a second optical emitting device 640. Those of skill in the art will appreciate that a single optical emitting device may be utilized such as by implementing a beam splitter/mirror system for separating the generated light into discrete beams for projection. Utilization of two optical emitting devices may allow for easy lateral beam adjustment, individual alignment, compact emitting units, without the drawbacks such as alignment and vibration concerns which may be associated with a beam splitter mirror system. Suitable optical emitting devices include lasers, gas lasers (i.e. a helium neon laser), a diode laser, a fiber optic emitting device, and the like for generating an indication visible to the human eye. Moreover, optical emitting devices may include a grating and/or a lens for forming a narrow beam of light (such as a line) for projection on the workpiece and/or support surface. In embodiments In further examples, the optical emitting device may be powered via a battery supply or from the saw's electrical system such as through the use of transformers and the like for optimization to the emitter's electrical requirements. Preferably, if an optical emitting device is powered from the

saw's electrical system the electrical connection will be equipped with a quick connect coupling such as a plug, interlocking connectors, or the like for quickly connecting/disconnecting to the saw's electrical system. For example, when making a non-through cut (such as a dado cut) a splitter and optical emitters may be removed, thus it is advantageous to have a conveniently positioned quick disconnect electrical coupling to allow easy removal of the alignment system.

Kindly amend paragraph [0027] with the following amended paragraph:

[0027] Referring to FIGS. 6 through 8, in exemplary embodiments, individual optical emitting devices (two devices are shown, 638 and 640) are disposed in a mounting assembly for permitting variable positioning of the projected light beam. For example, the optical alignment system may include a bracket 642 for accepting ~~a~~ the pair of light emitting devices 638 and 640 (individually disposed in a mounting assembly). As may be seen in FIGS. 7 and 8, a mounting assembly ~~844~~ 744 may be configured to allow lateral alignment (with respect to a side of a kerf), rotational alignment (positioning of the indicator with respect to the general direction in which the workpiece enters into engagement with the saw blade), and lateral micro alignment (is the visual indicator skewed from alignment with a side of the kerf). A mounting assembly 744 including lateral alignment, rotational alignment, and lateral micro alignment capabilities may permit variable positioning of the projected light beam. In a further example, a user may laterally adjust the optical emitters to accommodate a blade with a wider kerf, such as a blade with carbide teeth.